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**WEARDALE**

**Rural District Council.**



# Annual Report

.....OF THE.....

**Medical Officer of Health**

**FOR THE YEAR, 1925.**

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STANHOPE :  
GEO. A. HENDERSON, AGENT PRINTER, POST OFFICE,  
1926.



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# WEARDALE RURAL DISTRICT.

## Report of Medical Officer of Health for 1925.

TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS OF THE WEARDALE  
RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

GENTLEMEN,

I hereby submit to you my Report for 1925.

### NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

|                                          |     |     |     |             |
|------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|-------------|
| AREA                                     | ... | ... | ... | 97753 acres |
| POPULATION estimated                     | ... | ... | ... | 9450        |
| „ at 1921 census                         | ... | ... | ... | 9260        |
| NUMBER OF INHABITED HOUSES               | ... | ... | ... | 2345        |
| NUMBER OF FAMILIES OR SEPARATE OCCUPIERS | ... | ... | ... | 2290        |
| RATEABLE VALUE                           | ... | ... | ... | £59271      |
| SUM REPRESENTED BY PENNY RATE            | ... | ... | ... | £247        |

The estimate of population for 1925, made by the Registrar-General is 9450, and this figure has to be taken for statistical purposes. The estimate is too high, for between 1901 and 1921 there was a steady diminution of population amounting to 500, and as far as my knowledge of the district goes, this diminution, so general in rural areas, has not been arrested.

### PHYSICAL FEATURES AND GENERAL CHARACTER OF THE AREA.

Weardale Rural District is an extensive hilly and sparsely populated area in the western part of Co. Durham, on the eastern slope of the Pennine Ridge. It measures roughly 22 miles from east to west, and 10 miles from north to south ; it comprises the upper part of the Wear Valley. The northern boundary is the river Derwent, a tributary of the Tyne and the southern limit is the watershed separating the Wear Valley from the Tees Valley. The greater part of the area is barren moorland. The altitude varies from 400 feet to 2000 feet above sea-level.

## SOCIAL AND OCCUPATIONAL CONDITIONS.

The moors afford only sheep pasturage and grouse shooting. At the eastern end of the area, in proximity to the River Wear, there is some arable land, but the bulk of the land capable of cultivation is used for pastoral farming. The agricultural holdings are mainly small. After agriculture, the principal industry is limestone quarrying, which is extensively engaged in about Frosterley and Stanhope, the stone being sent by rail to the iron furnaces of Consett and Teesside. At Crawleyside and Bishopley there are lime-kilns for the production of lime from limestone. In recent years the making of tarred limestone road metal has become one of our regular industries, and during this year an extensive plant for this work has been erected at Rogerley Quarry, Frosterley, by Bradley's Ltd, supplanting a smaller concern belonging to the same firm at Wearhead. Whinstone for road making is quarried at Greenfoot and Copt Hill, and there are numerous small gannister quarries. Lead and fluor-spar are mined at Rookhope, Stanhope Burn and Upper Weardale. In the neighbourhood of Tow Law some of the workers are employed at the local coal pits. The steelworks of Messrs Rogerson & Co. Ltd. at Wolsingham employ the majority of the men at that place. The disastrous post-war depression of the iron and steel trade has continued during the year and has prejudicially affected all these local industries, causing a considerable amount of unemployment throughout the District, except in Rookhope, where the Weardale Lead Co. Ltd, has been able to give regular employment to the workers of that village.

In regard to the effect of these industries on the health of the workers, limestone quarrying is a particularly strenuous work and involves much exposure to inclement weather, so that our quarrymen are consequently prone to develop arterio-sclerosis and chronic rheumatic troubles. Lead mining is admittedly an occupation not conducive to longevity and is frequently found to cause impairment of the respiratory system.

### VITAL STATISTICS.

#### BIRTHS.

|              | Male  | Female | Total |
|--------------|-------|--------|-------|
| Legitimate   | 64    | 52     | 116   |
| Illegitimate | 0     | 6      | 6     |
|              | <hr/> | <hr/>  | <hr/> |
|              | 64    | 58     | 122   |

These figures give a birth-rate of 12·9 per 1000 which is extremely low and compares unfavourably with a birth-rate of 18·3 for the whole of England and Wales for the same period.

## Weardale Rural District, 1925.

| Causes of Death.                                    |                                                           |     |     |     | Males. | Females. |
|-----------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|--------|----------|
| All Causes                                          | ...                                                       | ... | ... | ... | 70     | 49       |
| 1                                                   | Enteric Fever                                             | ... | ... | ... |        | 1        |
| 2                                                   | Small-pox                                                 | ... | ... | ... |        |          |
| 3                                                   | Measles                                                   | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 1        |
| 4                                                   | Scarlet Fever                                             | ... | ... | ... |        |          |
| 5                                                   | Whooping cough                                            | ... | ... | ... | 1      |          |
| 6                                                   | Diphtheria                                                | ... | ... | ... |        |          |
| 7                                                   | Influenza                                                 | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 1        |
| 8                                                   | Encephalitis lethargica                                   | ... | ... | ..  |        |          |
| 9                                                   | Meningococcal meningitis                                  | ... | ... | ... |        |          |
| 10                                                  | Tuberculosis of respiratory system                        | ... | ... | ... | 9      | 3        |
| 11                                                  | Other Tuberculous diseases                                | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 2        |
| 12                                                  | Cancer, malignant disease                                 | ... | ... | ... | 5      | 6        |
| 13                                                  | Rheumatic fever                                           | ..  | ... | ... |        |          |
| 14                                                  | Diabetes                                                  | ... | ... | ... |        |          |
| 15                                                  | Cerebral hæmorrhage                                       | ... | ... | ..  | 4      | 3        |
| 16                                                  | Heart disease                                             | ... | ... | ... | 4      | 5        |
| 17                                                  | Arterio-sclerosis                                         | ... | ... | ... | 9      | 5        |
| 18                                                  | Bronchitis                                                | ... | ..  | ... | 2      | 3        |
| 19                                                  | Pneumonia (all forms)                                     | ... | ... | ... | 6      | 4        |
| 20                                                  | Other respiratory diseases                                | ... | ... | ... | 1      | 1        |
| 21                                                  | Ulcer of stomach or duodenum                              | ... | ... | ..  |        |          |
| 22                                                  | Diarrhœa, &c (under 2 years)                              | ... | ... | ... |        |          |
| 23                                                  | Appendicitis and typhlitis                                | ... | ... | ... |        |          |
| 24                                                  | Cirrhosis of liver                                        | ... | ... | ... |        |          |
| 25                                                  | Acute and chronic nephritis                               | ... | ... | ... |        | 2        |
| 26                                                  | Puerperal sepsis                                          | ... | ... | ... |        |          |
| 27                                                  | Other accidents and diseases of pregnancy and parturition | ... | ... | ... |        | 1        |
| 28                                                  | Congenital debility and malformation, premature birth     | ... | ... | ... | 3      | 2        |
| 29                                                  | Suicide                                                   | ... | ..  | ... |        |          |
| 30                                                  | Other deaths from violence                                | ... | ... | ... | 4      |          |
| 31                                                  | Other defined diseases                                    | ... | ... | ... | 17     | 7        |
| 32                                                  | Causes ill-defined or unknown                             | ... | ..  | ... | 2      | 2        |
| Deaths of Infants under 1 year   Total Illegitimate |                                                           |     |     |     | 7      | 4        |
| TOTAL BIRTHS                                        |                                                           |     |     |     | 64     | 58       |
| Legitimate                                          |                                                           |     |     |     | 64     | 52       |
| Illegitimate                                        |                                                           |     |     |     |        | 6        |

POPULATION     ...     ...     ...     2,450

## DEATHS.

| Male | Female | Total |
|------|--------|-------|
| 70   | 49     | 119   |

These figures are equivalent to a death-rate of 12·6 per 1000. The death-rate for the whole of England and Wales for the same period was 12·2 per 1000.

Appended are the corresponding birth-rates and death-rates of the District for the preceding five years :—

|      | Birth-rate | Death-rate |
|------|------------|------------|
| 1920 | 23·6       | 14·3       |
| 1921 | 19·8       | 15·1       |
| 1922 | 20·6       | 13·5       |
| 1923 | 15·1       | 11·7       |
| 1924 | 14·2       | 13·4       |
| 1925 | 12·9       | 12·6       |

INFANTILE DEATHS. There were 11 deaths of infants under one year of age, giving an infantile rate of 90 per 1000 registered births.

Although there is little actual poverty, the great majority of the people are in humble circumstances. The amount of out-door relief disbursed during the year was £1962 : 7 : 7.

## GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

### HOSPITALS PROVIDED OR SUBSIDIZED BY THE LOCAL AUTHORITY OR COUNTY COUNCIL.

(1) TUBERCULOSIS. Sanatoria are provided by the County Council.

(2.) MATERNITY. There is a Maternity Hospital at Bishop Auckland, outside our area available (provided by County Council.)

(3.) CHILDREN. No provision made. A few cases are sent to the Fleming Children's Hospital, Newcastle.

(4.) FEVER. Hospital for scarlet fever and diphtheria only at Jollybody, Stanhope, provided by the Stanhope and Weardale Joint Hospital Committee, with accommodation for about 20 cases.

(5.) SMALL-POX. The Council have an agreement with the Auckland Rural District by which any case of small-pox will be conveyed to and treated at the small-pox hospital of that authority.

(6.) OTHER HOSPITALS. The only other hospital available for the District is the Union Hospital of the Weardale Board of Guardians at Stanhope, and this is not utilized to the extent that it might be, largely owing to the prejudice existing against the word Workhouse. A small general cottage hospital would be a very great boon to the District. Serious cases are occasionally sent to the Newcastle Royal Victoria Infirmary by train or motor, 30 miles or more away. This institution receives a considerable amount of support from annual collections throughout the District, although not sufficient to defray the expenditure on the cases sent from the District.

There is no institutional provision for unmarried mothers and illegitimate children except the Workhouse at Stanhope.

The only ambulance in the District is a horse-drawn one belonging to the Stanhope and Weardale Joint Hospital Committee (for scarlet fever and diphtheria cases only.)

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES. At Stanhope and Wolsingham there are Maternity and Child Welfare Centres under the control of the County Council.

No clinics or treatment centres are provided by the Local Authority. At Bishop Auckland (15-25 miles away) there is a Tuberculosis Dispensary and a V.D. Clinic under the control of the County Council, which body also provides School Medical Officer and Health Visitor for the District.

#### PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS OF LOCAL AUTHORITY.

Medical Officer of Health (part time)

JAMES BANNERMAN, M.B.,C.M.

Contribution is made to salary from exchequer grant.

Sanitary Inspector (whole time)

JAMES R. RIDLEY, Certif. R.S.I. London,

Contribution is made to salary from exchequer grant.

Along with three whole time men.

#### PROFESSIONAL NURSING IN THE HOME. GENERAL.

<sup>Rushdon</sup>Wolsingham and <sup>each</sup>Upper Weardale have both got a trained district nurse working under Local District Nursing Associations. These two bodies are affiliated to the Durham County Nursing Association, which is subsidized by the County

Council. That part of the District adjacent to Stanhope, has the services of the trained district nurse provided by the Stanhope District Nursing Association; this body being entirely maintained by local charitable effort. All these ~~three~~ District Nursing Associations are supported by the Weardale Board of Guardians, so that persons in receipt of out-door relief may receive the benefit of the nurses' services.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES. The district nurses do not attend infectious cases and there is no provision for the nursing at home of measles cases.

MIDWIVES. The only two midwives in the District are the district nurses employed by the Wolsingham and Weardale Nursing Associations. The great majority of the confinements, however, are attended by doctors.

CHEMICAL WORK. When any water analysis is required the Council have this done by the County Analyst. During the year no such work has been necessary.

### LEGISLATION IN FORCE.

Relating to the whole District :

Public Health Act 1875 Sections 26, 157 and 158.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1890 Part III so far as applicable to Rural Districts.

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 :—

Part II Sections 15 to 17, 20 and 22 to 33.

Part III Sections 34 to 38, 43 to 46, 48 and 49.

Part IV Sections 52 to 60, 62 to 66 and 68.

Public Health Act 1925 :—

Part II Sections 15 to 16, 20, 23 and 25 to 34.

Part III Sections 36 to 43.

Part IV Sections 45 to 50.

Relating to the Wolsingham Special Drainage District :—

Towns Improvement Clauses Act 1847 Sections 66 to 79, 82 and 83,

Towns Police Clauses Act 1847 :—

Section 28 so far as it relates to the offences enumerated in sub-paragraphs 1, 12 and 16 to 21

Sections 30 to 33

Public Health Act 1875 Sections 39, 66, 155 and 161

Public Health (Building in Streets) Act 1888 Section 3

Public Health Acts Amendment Act 1907 Section 47.

## BYELAWS AND REGULATIONS IN FORCE :—

Regulations relating to Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops  
 Byelaws relating to New Streets and New Buildings.  
 (see p. 12).

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA..

**WATER.** The Council is responsible for the water supplies of the following villages :—Lanehead, Cowshill and Burtreeford, Wearhead, West Black Dene, Ireshopeburn, St. John's Chapel, Daddryshields and Westgate, Eastgate, Rookhope, Crawleyside, Edmondbyers, Frosterley, Hill End, White Kirkley and Thornley. These supplies are all of a satisfactory nature in regard to fitness for drinking, and are mostly soft in character. Wolsingham and Elm Park Terrace are supplied by the Durham County Water Board with excellent water.

In consequence of occasional shortage and intermittence of supply in the higher part of Westgate, your Surveyor was authorized to carry out his scheme of building a storage chamber at a higher altitude for the Daddryshields and Westgate supply. This entailed the extension of the 3 inch water main for a distance of 375 yards. The work has been carried out satisfactorily and has given a greatly improved supply, so that we do not anticipate any further trouble from shortage. At Crawleyside, the 1 inch water main has been extended a distance of 400 yards, so as to supply the inhabitants in the north-east part of this hamlet.

At Rookhope, the 1 inch water main has been extended to supply Hylton Terrace.

The Frosterley supply has been improved by piping for 300 yards from the spring-head, where formerly the water ran in an open channel. This will greatly lessen the risk of surface pollution.

Occasional discolouration of the water after heavy rains is noticed at times in these village supplies. This is difficult to avoid with supplies coming from moorland springs and is probably not detrimental to health.

During the year 19 houses have had water laid in. Along with your Inspector I visited and examined the Fawn Lees Water supply in January. This is entirely a private supply from moorland springs. We found evidence of surface pollution through the supply running open.

**RIVERS AND STREAMS.** These are all rapidly flowing and on stony beds. At times there is a considerable amount of suspended muddy matter brought down in the Rookhope Burn the result of lead ore washing.

The Council have endeavoured by warning notices to diminish the nuisance caused by inhabitants throwing their refuse and ashes into adjacent streams.

There is no pollution of streams from sewage.

**DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.** We have land filtration sewage disposal schemes for 16 of the villages in the District, all of which are working satisfactorily. The largest scheme is that at Wolsingham, and on the several occasions I visited it during the year I found all in order.

During the summer your Inspector and I made a careful investigation of the whole sewerage system of Wolsingham. All manholes and inspection chambers were examined, some minor defects remedied, and the whole system flushed under our supervision.

At Rookhope, a portion of the main sewer from Chapel Row to the outfall works, has been properly relaid and this, we trust, will remove a nuisance which was frequently being caused through stoppage.

At Dowson's property, East End, Wolsingham, and at Ward's Villa, proper drainage has been laid down. Repairs have been carried out on the breakwater at Wolsingham for the protection of the main sewer.

**CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.** A public urinal has been provided by the Council for St. John's Chapel. Four ashpit privies have been converted into water-closets, and we are endeavouring to increase the number of such conversions. The total number of water-closets is 177, ash-closets 118 and ash-pit privies 880.

**SCAVENGING.** The scavenging of Wolsingham which is the only place scavenged by the Council has been fairly well done throughout the year. Your Inspector and I have made frequent ash-pit inspection tours through Wolsingham.

Again I wish to call the attention of the Council to the need of a part-time scavenger for Frosterley.

A refuse tip has been provided for St. John's Chapel. Crawleyside is still without a much needed tip.

**SANITARY INSPECTION OF AREA.** Your Inspector and I are frequently in the various parts of the District, giving attention to general sanitary matters. These latter have comprised 30 ash-pit and privy nuisances, 42 house drainage defects, and 6 water-closet defects, all of which were attended to and rectified.

**SMOKE ABATEMENT.** We have no nuisance from smoke.

**PREMISES AND OCCUPATIONS CONTROLLED BY BYE-LAWS.** None.

**OTHER SANITARY MATTERS.** A nuisance prejudicial to the health of the community has existed during the year through leakage of gas from defective mains in Wolsingham. The lower end of Angate Street adjacent to the Market Place, and the Front Street opposite to the Causeway have been the worst areas. There has been difficulty in getting this nuisance rectified owing to the gas supply being in private hands and not under the control of the Council. At the end of the year the nuisance still remained.

**SCHOOLS.** The sanitary conditions and water supplies of the elementary schools in the District are satisfactory.

## HOUSING.

**I. GENERAL HOUSING CONDITIONS.** It cannot be said that there is any crying shortage of houses in the villages of the District, and I see no reason, at present, to advise any costly public scheme of building. There is no probability of any increase of population.

**II. OVERCROWDING.** This does not exist to any serious extent. It is extremely rare for more than one family to be occupying a house. In certain instances where there is a large family in a two or three roomed house, there is of course some overcrowding. But, in a rural area such as this, the atmospheric conditions are incomparably better than in the industrial towns, and any overcrowding which may occur is less deleterious.

**III. FITNESS OF HOUSES.** The general standard of houses is fair. The great majority of the houses are stone built and substantial. Many houses however are affected with damp, owing to faulty methods of construction in former days; particularly by the absence of concrete foundations and damp-proof courses. In certain cases of houses built on hill sides, the rising ground at the back of the house is responsible for dampness. There are very few back to back houses.

The principal points I emphasize in regard to houses are:—

- (1.) Correction of dampness if due to faults in roof or walls, defective gutters, or rising ground against one of the walls.
- (2) Windows to be made so that they can be opened.
- (3.) Ventilation of pantry.
- (4) Adequate sanitary accommodation, with substitution of W.C. for privy where possible.
- (5) Provision of proper ash-pit.

During recent years the greatly increased cost of repairs to property has, in many cases, resulted in the proper upkeep of property being neglected. Generally speaking I think the tenants take reasonable care of the houses they occupy.

#### IV. UNHEALTHY AREAS. None.

V. BYELAWS. We have byelaws, sanctioned by the Ministry of Health in 1924, referring to:— (a) Construction of new streets and sewerage thereof. (b) Structure of foundations and walls of new buildings. (c). Sufficiency of space about new buildings and ventilation of same. (d) Height of rooms. (e) Drainage. (f) Water-closets. (g) Earth closets and privies. (h) Ashpits.

The foregoing remarks on housing apply generally to Stanhope Parish and to the outlying parts of Wolsingham Parish. In the town of Wolsingham there are many houses far from ideal tho' hardly deserving condemnation, and a few houses that are overcrowded. Were new houses built some of these might automatically close. But trade is so bad in this place at present, and the outlook so uncertain, that it would be injudicious for the Local Authority to embark on any expensive building scheme. This could be done when circumstances are more propitious, as the District Council possess land which could be so used. In the meantime, I think that were any new houses to be built by private enterprise, for occupation by tenants of existing defective houses, a subsidy in aid would be justifiable.

### HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

|                                  |                                     |     |     |   |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-----|-----|---|
| Houses erected during the year:— |                                     |     |     |   |
| a                                | Total                               | ... | ... | 6 |
| b                                | With assistance under Housing Acts: |     |     |   |
|                                  | (1) By Local Authority              | ... | ... | 0 |
|                                  | (2) By other bodies or persons      | ... | ... | 0 |

## 1. UNFIT DWELLING HOUSES.

## Inspection.

- |     |                                                                                                                                          |     |     |     |
|-----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|-----|
| (1) | Total number of houses inspected for defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)                                                       | ... | ... | 976 |
| (2) | Number of houses inspected and recorded under Housing (Inspection of District) Regulations 1910 or Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 | ... | ... | 976 |
| (3) | Number of houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for habitation                                | ... |     | 1   |
| (4) | Number of houses (exclusive of those referred to under preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for habitation | ... |     | 5   |

## 2. REMEDY OF DEFECTS WITHOUT SERVICE OF FORMAL NOTICE.

|                                                                                                                               |     |     |    |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|
| Number of defective houses rendered fit, or more fit, in consequence of informal action by Local Authority or their Officers. | ... | ... | 78 |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|----|

## 3. ACTION UNDER STATUTORY POWERS.

|   |                                                  |     |     |   |
|---|--------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|---|
| A | Proceedings under Section 3 of Housing Act, 1925 | ... | ... | 0 |
|---|--------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|---|

## B Proceedings under Public Health Acts

- |     |                                                                                           |     |     |   |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----|-----|---|
| (1) | Number of houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | ... | ... | 9 |
| (2) | Number of houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notice            | ... | ... | 9 |

## C Proceedings under Section 11, 14 and 15 of Housing Act, 1925

- |     |                                                               |     |  |   |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------|-----|--|---|
| (1) | Representations made with a view to making of Closing Order   | ... |  | 1 |
| (2) | Number of houses in respect of which Closing Orders were made | ... |  | 1 |

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MEAT. There is no public slaughter-house, the butchering being mainly done by village butchers in a small way of business. There are 8 registered private slaughter houses and during the year 47 visits were paid to these premises. Generally speaking, they were found to be in a satisfactory condition in regard to cleanliness, ventilation, etc. In one instance a nuisance caused by a blocked drain was found, and this was rectified on notice being served. A part of the meat consumed in the District is retailed from butchers' carts which travel the area from Stanhope and Bishop Auckland.

(b) MILK SUPPLY. All the milk sold in the District is retailed by small farmers. There is no milk imported, and there are no dairy shops. In regard to cleanliness in the handling of milk, I am satisfied that there is considerable scope for improvement. In January, I furnished you, by request, with a special report on Milk Supply in the District, and made certain suggestions, which, however, you decided not to adopt.

There are 37 registered retail purveyors of milk in the District and their premises have all been visited during the year by your Inspector and myself. Two byres at Wolsingham, one in Silver Street, and the other at West End, have been condemned by me as utterly unsuitable for the housing of dairy cows, and these cases are now under your consideration.

We did not, in our inspections, find any dairy cow suffering from obvious tuberculosis.

No applications have been made for licenses for the sale of milk under special designations, and no retailer's registration has been revoked or refused.

Bacteriological examination of samples of milk is in the hands of the County Council.

(c) OTHER FOODS. Practically all the bread consumed in the District is home-made.

## PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following Table shows the notifications of infectious disease since 1920

|                         | 1920 | 1921 | 1922 | 1923 | 1924 | 1925 |
|-------------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|
| Scarlet Fever ...       | 48   | 7    | 5    | 22   | 46   | 11   |
| Diphtheria ...          | 13   | 19   | 14   | 4    | 4    | 3    |
| Enteric Fever ...       | 1    |      | 1    | 1    |      | 5    |
| Pneumonia ...           | 6    | 1    | 8    | 6    | 2    | 5    |
| Encephalitis Lethargica | 1    |      |      |      |      |      |
| Erysipelas ...          |      | 1    | 4    | 3    |      |      |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum   |      |      |      |      |      | 1    |

A supply of diphtheria antitoxin is always kept on hand by me and is available for use by practitioners in the District.

We have had during the above period very few, if any, return cases.

Bacteriological examination of swabs for diphtheria, and Widal reactions for enteric, are done at the College of Medicine, Newcastle, at the expense of the County Council. During the year 10 such examinations were done, 7 for diphtheria and 3 for enteric fever.

As far as I am aware, no use has been yet made locally of the Schick and Dick tests in diphtheria and scarlet fever respectively, nor of any method of artificial immunization against these diseases.

In regard to disinfection of verminous persons and their belongings, we have no apparatus specially provided for this purpose. Disinfection of articles and premises is effected by sulphur fumigation and formalin spraying. When considered desirable, bedding is destroyed by burning and the owner compensated.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES (Other than Tuberculosis)  
DURING 1925.

| Disease.              | Total cases notified. | Cases admitted to Hospital. | Total Deaths. |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Small Pox ...         | 0                     |                             |               |
| Scarlet Fever ...     | 11                    | 9                           |               |
| Diphtheria ...        | 3                     | 2                           |               |
| Enteric Fever ...     | 5                     |                             |               |
| Puerperal Fever...    | 0                     |                             | 1             |
| Pneumonia ...         | 5                     |                             | 10            |
| Ophthalmia Neonatorum | 1                     |                             |               |
| Erysipelas ...        | 2                     |                             |               |

One case of scarlet fever in February, and one case of diphtheria in March, which occurred in Wolsingham, were treated at home, owing to the Isolation Hospital being temporarily closed. In April a case of scarlet fever at Wolsingham had to remain at home owing to the ambulance van being under repair.

An outbreak of enteric fever occurred in Upper Weardale in the spring. Four of these cases (one fatal) were due to a patient having been brought home from a hospital surgical ward in Newcastle in which enteric fever had broken out. In one household where there was a case of enteric, all the other inmates, who had been amply exposed to the risk of infection, were given prophylactic inoculations and no further case occurred. The remaining case of enteric fever was sporadic and could not be connected with the other four cases.

Edmondbyers School was fumigated during temporary closure on account of an influenza epidemic. Frosterley North School and Frosterley South School were likewise fumigated during temporary closure on account of a measles epidemic.

## TUBERCULOSIS.

I received 34 notifications of tuberculosis, compared with 58 in 1924 and 27 in 1923. Notification is now more efficiently carried out than was the case a few years ago, but there is still room for improvement in this respect. There were 12 deaths from tuberculosis, equivalent to a tuberculosis death rate of 1·2 per 1000 per annum. Two fatal cases (16 per cent of total tuberculosis deaths) were un-notified.

| Age Period.  | New Cases. |    |               |    | Deaths.   |    |               |    |
|--------------|------------|----|---------------|----|-----------|----|---------------|----|
|              | Pulmonary  |    | Non-Pulmonary |    | Pulmonary |    | Non-Pulmonary |    |
|              | M.         | F. | M.            | F. | M.        | F. | M.            | F. |
| 0—1 ...      |            |    |               |    |           |    |               |    |
| 1—5 ...      | 1          |    | 1             | 1  |           |    |               |    |
| 5—10 ...     | 1          |    | 2             | 3  |           |    |               |    |
| 10—15 ...    |            |    | 3             | 3  |           |    |               |    |
| 15—20 ...    |            | 1  |               | 1  |           |    |               |    |
| 20—25 ..     |            | 2  |               |    |           |    |               |    |
| 25—35 ...    | 2          | 1  | 1             |    | 2         | 1  |               |    |
| 35—45 ...    | 3          | 1  |               | 2  | 1         | 1  |               |    |
| 45—55 ...    |            | 2  |               |    | 2         | 1  |               |    |
| 55—65 ...    | 1          |    |               |    | 2         |    |               |    |
| 65 & upwards | 2          |    |               |    | 2         |    |               |    |
| Totals ...   | 10         | 7  | 7             | 10 | 9         | 3  |               |    |

Dampness and imperfect ventilation of dwelling houses are probably the most active auxiliary factors in the causation of tuberculosis. I think the public are now beginning to realize the importance of open windows in sleeping rooms, but I wish the practice were more universal. The problem of how to deal with the advanced infective case of tuberculosis remains unsolved. We supply sputum flasks, disinfectants and carry out subsequent disinfection of premises, for any case, when asked to do so by the doctor in attendance. Examination of sputum for tubercle bacilli in suspected cases of tuberculosis is carried out at the College of Medicine, Newcastle-on-Tyne, at the expense of the County Council.

The state of the Tuberculosis Register for the District at the end of the year was as follows :—

|                      |     |       |   |           |
|----------------------|-----|-------|---|-----------|
| Pulmonary Male       | ... | 35    | } | 71        |
| Pulmonary Female     | ... | 36    |   |           |
| Non-pulmonary Male   | ... | 35    | } | 66        |
| Non-pulmonary Female | ... | 31    |   |           |
|                      |     | Total |   | <hr/> 137 |

In regard to provision of tuberculosis sanatoria and dispensary, the District comes under the County Council.

#### MATERNITY AND CHILD WELFARE.

There are centres which meet fortnightly at Wolsingham and Stanhope, the latter being available for mothers and infants from the hamlet of Crawleyside; both centres are under the management of the County Council.

No case of puerperal fever was notified. One case of ophthalmia neonatorum occurred and recovered with unimpaired vision. An epidemic of measles occurred in the Frosterley neighbourhood and two deaths resulted.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

**JAS. BANNERMAN, M.B.**







